

Standard 6-4 The student will demonstrate an understanding of changing political, social, and economic cultures in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

6-4.2 Summarize the features and major contributions of China, including its golden age of art and literature, the invention of gunpowder and woodblock printing, and commercial expansion and the rise of trade. (H, G, E)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been taught about Chinese civilization.

In Global Studies, students will explain the significant political, commercial, and cultural changes that took place in China in the nineteenth century, including the unification of Chinese culture and motivations and effects of China's changing attitudes toward foreign trade and interaction (GS-4.1). Students will also compare the political actions of European, Asian, and African nations in the era of imperial expansion, including the collapse of Chinese government and society (GS-4.5). Students will continue their study of China by summarizing the worldwide changes that took place following World War I, including the revolutions and political change in China (GS-5.2). Students will conclude their study of China by summarizing the ideologies and global effects of Communism and democracy, including the effects of totalitarianism and Communism in China (GS-6.1) and summarizing the worldwide effects of the Cold War, including the changing relationships between the Soviet Union and China (GS-6.2).

It is essential for students to know that civilizations existed in China for at least 800 years before the point at which the standards first focus on them. Students should know that the basis for all of China's accomplishments was periods of relative political stability which led to improved agriculture and trade. Government support of trade resulted in the building of roads and waterways and stimulated trade beyond China's borders, particularly along the Silk Road. It is essential to understand that China's desire to spread ideas within its borders and to remain strong and secure within those borders led to the invention of woodblock printing and gunpowder. Students should also know that artistic expression was a key element of Chinese civilization, and that it took form primarily in poetry, porcelain, painting, and calligraphy.

It is not essential for students to know the names or spellings of specific emperors or dynasties (with the exception of the Tang and the Song).

Assessment guidelines: In order to measure understanding of China's features and major contributions, appropriate assessments will require the student to **infer** the importance Chinese civilization placed on learning and knowledge, **compare** the impact of woodblock printing on China with that of movable type printing on Europe nine hundred years later, and **explain** the connection between the Chinese view of the world and its tradition of artistic expression.